

## *BARTHOLDI COMPLIMENTED.*

### A RECEPTION TO THE FRENCH SCULPTOR AT THE LOTUS CLUB.

A reception to Auguste Bartholdi, the sculptor of the statue of Liberty Enlightening the World, was given by the Lotus Club last night. Mr. Whitelaw Reid, President of the club, presided, and among those present were Col. Thomas W. Knox, Frederick Coudert, Algernon S. Sullivan, Gen. John A. Halderman, ex-United States Minister to Siam; Gen. Horace Porter, Douglas Taylor, Felix Moscheles, Dr. Charles Inslee Pardee, Chauncey M. Depew, Charles Henry Webb, Joseph Pulitzer, Richard Butler, H. F. Gillig, A. F. Tait, John Elderkin, the Hon. H. W. Cameron, George Alfred Townsend, Gen. E. F. Winslow, S. S. Packard, Chandos Fulton, George A. Frink, and George H. Story.

Mr. Reid introduced the guest of the evening in a short speech, and M. Bartholdi responded, briefly thanking the club for its courtesy, and hoping that the future relations of France and this country would continue to be as cordial in the future as in the past. Richard Butler and Joseph Pulitzer followed, and the next speaker was Chauncey M. Depew. He said that the Englishman who came to America had but one purpose in coming here, and that was to enrich his own pocket at the expense of ours. M. Bartholdi would not be a Frenchman if he were not sensational, and the most sensational thing of the century was that a man or a nation wanted to give us something. The reason why the money for the pedestal was not immediately subscribed was because the people thought the statue could not possibly be a free gift. The whole country now appreciated it. M. Bartholdi in presenting the statue had paid the country the highest compliment a man could pay. The statue would for all time to come welcome the incoming stranger. It would recall to us that our relations with France had always been full of obligation on our side. She had given us Lafayette, the army under Rochambeau, and the navy under De Grasse. The statue of liberty would perpetually present the question, "What is liberty?" In this country there was Liberty to fight out all questions bearing upon the welfare of the country. Mr. Depew hoped that not only the work of Bartholdi, but the work of all other French artists and sculptors should be admitted to America without the payment of duty. Genius did not belong to France alone, but was the gift of God, to be enjoyed by the universe. The expression of liberty had come to us from France in that divine form of art which belonged to no nationality.

Gen. Horace Porter was then introduced, and spoke of the presence of French guests at the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the surrender of Yorktown. When they saw that place they did not wonder that Cornwallis had surrendered the place. Indeed they wondered how he had managed to stay there so long. Persons who saw Bartholdi's statue knew it was not an American woman by her statuesque silence. New-Yorkers were glad that the statue was not going to turn her nose in the direction of Hunter's Point. Frederick Coudert also spoke.